

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 16-18, and 20-41 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 2 and 10-15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. In light of the amendments remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-9, 12-13, 16-18 and 20-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lazzouni et al.* (USP 5,652,412) in view of *Marianetti, II et al.* (USP 5,889,888); and rejected claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lazzouni et al.* in view of *Marianetti, II et al.* and further in view of *De Schrijver* (WO 00/00928). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Examiner Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the Interview conducted on April 26, 2006. During the Interview, the parties agreed that all of the previous rejections will be withdrawn upon Applicant's filing of this Reply, as there is no motivation to combine the references as asserted by the Examiner. The Examiner further agreed that the amendments included herein will be properly considered without the necessity of Applicant's filing of a continuing application.

As the Examiner has already issued six (6) Official Actions in this application, Applicant wishes to invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned to discuss any outstanding issues in order to move this application to allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinnet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted

By 

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